

KENTUCKY ENERGY WATCH

A weekly update of energy issues & prices

Media Excerpts: A snapshot of state and national energy issues

[University of Louisville seeking 'greener' profile](#) — The old saying that you can lead a horse to water but cannot make it drink may well apply to University of Louisville students, faculty and staff when it comes to taking the bus. They can ride the Transit Authority of River City buses for free, thanks to a \$498,000 university subsidy this year that includes TARC-run campus shuttles such as those to and from the parking lot at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium. But a new survey shows that only 6 percent of students, faculty and staff actually use TARC for commuting. The great majority — 79 percent of employees and 65 percent of students — still commute, alone, in their cars. "It says a lot about our culture," said junior John Weber, a Student Government Association vice president. "As Americans, we like to be individuals and drive." But changing that culture to include more commuting by bus, bike or foot is part of a new U of L climate action plan, a 70-page document that seeks to make the university "carbon-neutral" by 2050. (Courier Journal, Nov. 7, 2010)

[PNC to stop mountaintop mining financing](#) — PNC Bank, the largest banking company in Kentucky in terms of deposits, says it will stop financing projects that extract coal using a controversial form of surface mining known as mountaintop removal. PNC says in a corporate responsibility statement updated late last month that it will no longer fund the projects or "provide credit to coal producers whose primary extraction method is" mountaintop removal. (Courier Journal, Nov. 8, 2010)

[Climate scientists plan to take on skeptics](#) — Faced with increasing political attacks, hundreds of climate scientists are joining a broad campaign to push back against congressional conservatives who have threatened prominent researchers with investigations and have vowed to kill regulations to rein in man-made greenhouse gas emissions. The efforts reveal a shift among climate scientists, many of whom have traditionally stayed out of politics and avoided the news media. Many now say they are willing to go toe-to-toe with their critics, some of whom gained new power after the Republicans won control of the House in Tuesday's election. (Courier Journal, Nov. 7, 2010)

[U.S. weighs funding for renewable energy projects](#) — President Obama's top advisers recommended cutting off funding for a federal loan-guarantee program meant to spur the construction of wind and solar farms and other alternative energy projects, saying taxpayer dollars might be better spent elsewhere. But the advisers, including Mr. Obama's outgoing National Economic Council Director Lawrence Summers, energy policy czar Carol Browner and Ron Klain, chief of staff to Vice President Joe Biden, warned Mr. Obama that pulling money from the program would risk antagonizing powerful allies in Congress, and would "signal the failure of a Recovery Act program that has been featured prominently by the administration," according to an Oct. 25 memorandum viewed by The Wall Street Journal. The memo questions the logic behind subsidizing a big wind farm project in Oregon that Energy Secretary Steven Chu praised last month as "part of the administration's commitment to doubling our renewable energy generation by 2012." Mr. Chu said the federal government would provide, subject to conditions, a partial guarantee for a \$1.3 billion loan for the project. (Wall Street Journal, Nov. 3, 2010)

[Obama to face new foes in global warming fight](#) — The Obama administration and the new Congress appear headed for early confrontations over the reach of environmental regulation and federal subsidies for fossil fuel development. The administration is moving determinedly forward on a series of actions to limit emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants, to restrict some coal mining practices and to eliminate multibillion-dollar tax breaks for the oil and gas industry. Those initiatives have already generated bipartisan objections in both houses of Congress, and the numbers in opposition grew with Tuesday's voting. Many of the newly elected members have expressed skepticism about the existence of global warming and say they strongly oppose government action to combat it. (New York Times, Nov. 3, 2010)

[U.S. increases 2011 crude oil price to \\$85.17, boosts demand estimates](#) — The Energy Department increased its crude oil price forecast for 2011 on projections of greater global fuel consumption. West Texas Intermediate oil, the U.S. benchmark, will average \$85.17 a barrel next year, up from last month's forecast of \$83, according to the department's monthly Short-Term Energy Outlook, released today. Prices in 2010 will average \$78.80, 83 cents higher than October's estimate of \$77.97. The department raised its outlook for global oil consumption next year to 87.77 million barrels a day from 87.44 million last month. Global gross domestic product will grow 3.3 percent in 2011, unchanged from the projection a month ago, according to the report. U.S. gross domestic product will grow 2.2 percent in 2011, up from projections of 2.1 percent a month ago, according to the report. The economy of the world's biggest-oil consuming country will climb 2.6 percent in 2010, which is unchanged from last month's estimate. Demand for crude oil will climb 2.4 percent to 86.33 million this year, according to the report. The 2010 forecast was increased by 270,000 barrels from last month's projection. (Bloomberg, Nov. 9, 2010)

These are media summaries. Please consult sources directly to ensure accuracy of information presented. Underlined titles are links to online articles in their entirety.



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Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	11/10/10	11/05/10	10/29/10	10/22/10	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	2.883	2.785	2.750	2.773	2.582
Ashland	3.042	2.891	2.781	2.815	2.673
Covington	2.986	2.862	2.813	2.827	2.625
Lexington	2.927	2.814	2.755	2.777	2.549
Louisville	2.969	2.827	2.771	2.812	2.573
Owensboro	2.763	2.696	2.686	2.724	2.523
Diesel (State avg.)	3.076	3.029	3.032	3.036	2.752
Ashland	3.089	3.038	3.033	3.155	2.751
Covington	3.106	3.035	3.042	3.037	2.783
Lexington	3.083	3.051	3.046	3.057	2.775
Louisville	3.073	3.015	3.016	3.037	2.741
Owensboro	3.081	3.039	3.042	3.030	2.672

Note: The record high average price for gasoline in Kentucky is \$4.089, reported on July 10, 2008.

Source: [Gasoline \(unleaded regular\)](#) & [Diesel: National AAA](#).

Wholesale Fuel Prices

Spot Prices	11/09/10	11/04/10	10/28/10	10/22/10	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	86.72	86.49	82.18	80.06	79.05
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	3.770	3.514	3.355	3.425	3.790

Source: [Wall Street Journal](#)

Futures		December-10	January-11	February-11
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	11/09/10	86.72	87.35	87.85
	11/04/10	86.49	87.16	87.66
	10/28/10	82.18	82.94	*
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	11/09/10	4.210	4.372	4.370
	11/04/10	3.292	3.856	4.109
	10/28/10	3.890	4.130	*
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Behvieu (OPIS)</i>	11/09/10	1.280	1.281	*
	11/04/10	1.280	1.283	*
	10/28/10	1.239	1.243	*
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	11/09/10	66.22	66.75	66.93
	11/04/10	66.93	67.42	67.54
	10/28/10	66.38	67.23	*

Source: [CME Group](#)

*Information not available at time of publication

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